

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH *

Report to Governor's Council

1. BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Activities of the Director

The regular monthly meeting of the State Board of Public Health was attended May 2 and the annual meeting of the California State Medical Association was attended the following day. Most of the month was spent in the northern part of the State. At conferences held with the Director the following subjects were discussed. Legislation pertaining to the control of venereal diseases; prosecution of food violation cases in local courts; survey of rodents in mountainous districts; the proposed organization of a bureau of industrial hygiene; the training of sanitary inspectors; organization of whole-time county health units; the enforcement of the Cannery Act; the issuance of permits to operate oyster beds; the education of nurses; the control of rabies; dental hygiene; diagnostic clinics for crippled children; the proper labeling of canned dog foods; sewage disposal, and water supply.

2. BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Food Poisoning

With the beginning of warm weather, the occurrence of outbreaks of food poisoning began. Groups of cases involving nine persons in Santa Clara County, thirty-five in San Bernardino County and seventeen in Madera County were reported. It would seem that all of these outbreaks were due to the use of cold meats improperly refrigerated. The causative organisms were demonstrated in two of the outbreaks; in the other outbreak, no food like that consumed was available for laboratory study.

Epidemic Jaundice

An outbreak of this disease involving twenty-five or thirty pupils in a rural school of Eldorado County was investigated. . . .

Animal Rabies

Investigations in rabies and its control were made during the month. Rabies is exceptionally prevalent in Los Angeles City and County and in other portions of Southern California. During the week ending May 21, twenty-five rabid animals were reported in Los Angeles City and a marked increase in the number of rabid animals was noted in Los Angeles County. At the present time, more than one hundred individuals in the county are taking the Pasteur treatment. Local quarantines have been imposed in an effort to curb the spread of the disease.

Smallpox

Investigations into the prevalence of smallpox were made in Modoc, Lassen, and Riverside counties. Vaccination clinics were held in an effort to immunize as many school children and contacts as possible.

Because of the prevalence of smallpox in Siskiyou County, assistance was given in vaccinating school children. In ten different school districts, 710 children were vaccinated. A survey was made to determine the extent of vaccination in San Diego City and County. During the fiscal year, approximately 12,000 vaccinations were done in the city schools (public, parochial, and State College), and four thousand were done in the schools of the rural districts. It is expected another one thousand vaccinations will be performed during the month.

Typhoid Fever

Typhoid fever cases were investigated in Monterey, San Diego, Tulare, Fresno, and Santa Cruz counties. One case in a child was probably contracted outside of the State while the patient was visiting a relative in Kansas, who was determined by the Kansas State Health Department to be a typhoid carrier. Other cases involved swimming in a contaminated slough.

General Health Conditions

Chickenpox, mumps, smallpox, and whooping cough are more prevalent than usual. The number of cases of food poisoning reported show increases at the beginning of warm weather.

3. SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Rodent Survey

The rodent survey conducted by this bureau was carried on in sections of Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Placer, Eldorado, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz counties. Among the rodents collected were common ground squirrels, golden mantled squirrels, tamarack squirrels, belding squirrels, chipmunks, white-footed field mice, flying squirrels, woodrats, shrews, house mice, ground hogs, rats, and rabbits. A total of 2,268 specimens was collected. Several thousand fleas were collected from the animals examined and sent to the laboratory.

Rodent Control Activities

The rodent control staff of the bureau inspected 18,226 acres of land and re-inspected 69,975 acres. Carbon bisulphide, grain poisoned with thallium and strychnin were used in control operations. Special investigations were made of the rodent situation in sections of the East Bay waterfront. Assistance was given in placing poisoned baits for the destruction of rats.

Stream Pollution

Investigations into stream pollution were made along Arcade Creek and American River in Sacramento County; Dry Creek in Placer County; Blue Jay, Dogwood, Hook, and Waterman creeks, and Santa Ana River in San Bernardino County; Pine, Los Angeles, Gorman, Gaviota, Mojoquin, and Yaca creeks in Santa Barbara County. Many other investigations into general sanitary conditions were carried on.

Highway Eating Places

Inspection of the following highway eating places and service stations were made during the month:

Number of eating places inspected and reinspected....	61
Number found satisfactory.....	43
Number found with minor defects.....	13
Number found insanitary.....	5
Number of service stations inspected and reinspected	74
Number found satisfactory.....	56
Number found with minor defects.....	12
Number found insanitary.....	6

4. DIVISION OF LABORATORIES

Bacteriological Laboratory

Following is the diagnostic detail of examinations performed in this laboratory during May:

Slides prepared and examined for the diagnosis of diphtheria, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, malaria, rabies, culture identifications.....	4,064
Plate cultures made, examined and selected colonies transplanted during examination for typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, food poisoning, plague, unknown determinations, etc.....	775
Culture tubes inoculated (fluid and solid media) for testing sugar reactions and other cultural characteristics during identification of unknown cultures isolated in blood, stool and food examinations and sent in by other laboratories.....	888
Animal inoculations for virulence tests, Kellogg tests, tuberculosis of kidneys, meningitis, standardizing vaccines, making immune serums, etc.....	588
Precipitation tests, principally for syphilis.....	4,356
Complement fixation tests, principally for syphilis, but also for identification of cultures and immune serums	4,579
Agglutination tests, each one involving the making of eight different serum dilutions, centrifuging and examining; required for Widal tests for typhoid, undulant fever, typhus, tularemia and for identification of cultures, etc.....	560
Total of procedures.....	15,810
Number of cases represented.....	5,963

Biologics

The following biologics were made in the laboratory and distributed during May:

Vaccine issued by the Bacteriological Laboratory during the month of May, 1937:	
Triplettyphoid	1,785 c.c.
Typhoid	4,560 c.c.
Agglutinating antigens:	
Typhoid	265 c.c.
Paratyphoid Alpha	230 c.c.
Paratyphoid Beta	210 c.c.
Br. Abortus	58 c.c.
Tularensis	4 c.c.

* By W. M. Dickie, M. D., Director of Public Health.

Antigen for diagnosis of syphilis:

Kolmer	130 c.c.
Kahn	820 c.c.
Kline	11 c.c.

Antisera:

Typhoid	4 c.c.
Paratyphoid Alpha	3 c.c.
Paratyphoid Beta	3 c.c.
Flexner dysentery	4 c.c.
H R Y dysentery	4 c.c.
Shiga dysentery	4 c.c.
Sonne dysentery	1 c.c.
Morgan	3 c.c.
Sulpestifer	1 c.c.
Dispar	1 c.c.
Aertrycke	1 c.c.
Enteritidis	2 c.c.
Strong	1 c.c.
Aerogenes	1 c.c.
Amboceptor	52 c.c.

Tubes of culture media 252

Ophthalmia noenatorum prophylactic outfits distributed during the month of May, 1937:

Number of ampoules.....5,636

Chemical Laboratory

During May, 106 official samples and twenty-seven unofficial samples of foods were examined in this laboratory. Of the official samples, forty-three were determined as illegal and of the unofficial samples, sixteen were found illegal—a total of fifty-nine out of 133 submitted. Most of these examinations covered carbonated beverages, dog foods, jams, jellies, and pickles. Four miscellaneous food products were examined for State institutions.

Water and Sewage Laboratory

During May, thirty-eight bacterial examinations and thirty-four chemical examinations of water were made in this laboratory; in addition, ten bacterial examinations of oysters were made.

5. FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTIONS**Egg Products**

Many inspections of dried egg products were made during the month of May. . . .

Dried Fruit

Inspections were made of packers of dried fruit in the San Joaquin Valley, particularly in Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus counties. . . .

Used Containers

Inspections were made of plants using second-hand containers such as beverage manufacturers, vinegar and oil packers, relish and catsup packers, and retail wine bottlers. Steps were taken to improve methods of bottle washing in commercial plants.

"On-Sale" Inspections

A large number of inspectors have been assigned to the "on-sale" inspections. Menus and winery advertisements were found to be generally correct and stocks on hand agree with items listed. The most common violation is the substitution of domestic Scotch type whiskey for the foreign product. In some places, carbonated wine is used in "champagne cocktails." There have been fewer violations noted in "on-sale" establishments.

Inspection of "Barrel-Houses"

Inspections of "barrel-houses" show many owners as unfamiliar with label requirements on California wines. Efforts are made to correct this situation.

Food Products Destroyed

Because of their unfitness for human consumption, large quantities of wine, figs, and raisins were destroyed during May. Such destruction was accomplished only after every effort had been made to salvage the products for human consumption.

Prosecutions

Seven prosecutions were conducted in local courts. These covered wine, whiskey, and cognac. Convictions were secured in all but one case. Fines ranged from \$25 to \$500.

6. CANNERY INSPECTIONS**Tuna**

A large tonnage of tuna was handled in packing plants during May. . . .

Spinach

May brought the end of the spinach season.

Peas

The packing of peas is growing in popularity with the California packers and the acreage devoted to growing this product is considerably higher.

Artichokes

The commercial packing of artichokes seems to be growing in popularity, probably due to public demand for this product.

Asparagus

The month of May is a heavy packing season for asparagus. All canners have agreed to cease operations on June 20. . . .

Summary

Among the food products packed under supervision of this bureau during May are the following: Animal food, artichokes, asparagus, beets, carrots, hominy, kidney beans, lima beans, mushrooms, olives, onions, peas, peas and carrots, pink beans, pork and beans, potatoes, puree, specialties, spinach, string beans, and vegetable salad.

7. TUBERCULOSIS**Activities of the Chief**

The following institutions were inspected by the chief of this bureau during May: Maryknoll, Monrovia; Santa Terrisita; Los Angeles General Hospital; Weimar Sanatorium; Imperial County Hospital; San Diego County Hospital; Olive View Sanatorium; San Bernardino County Hospital; San Francisco Hospital, and Pasadena Preventorium.

8. CHILD HYGIENE**Activities of the Chief**

A meeting was held with the southern section of the Professional Advisory Committee of the bureau at which the items on the proposed program for the Bureau of Child Hygiene during the coming fiscal year were discussed. A visit was made to the Mexican demonstration being conducted by this bureau in Southern California. Progress reports, statistical material and other reports were prepared during the month.

Pediatric Service

The pediatricians on the bureau staff conducted 203 conferences in forty-one counties during May. A total of 3,689 children were examined. In this group, 2,700 medical defects were discovered and referred to family physicians for correction. A total of 1,776 defects of hygiene were discussed with mothers. The medical staff vaccinated 193 children and immunized 412 against diphtheria. Pre-natal conferences were initiated in Humboldt, Placer, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.

Dental Service

A dentist was added to the bureau staff in April. During May, he made dental examinations in 1,673 children and gave educational talks before more than 1,300 children.

Nursing Service

The nursing service conducted by the bureau during May covered general and district supervision over the activities of migratory nurses, nurses working among Mexicans and those doing generalized service in the various counties. A large volume of work was accomplished by county nurses in Sierra, Calaveras, Modoc, Santa Barbara, Mariposa, Trinity, Lake, Kings, Tulare, Mono, Alpine, Lassen, Fresno, Madera, Imperial, and San Bernardino counties.

9. REGISTRATION OF NURSES**Activities of the Chief**

Routine activities have been heavy for this season of the year. Schools of nursing were surveyed in San Francisco and Fresno. Addresses were given before pre-nursing students at the Fresno State College.

Activities of Inspectors

Most of the month has been devoted to making studies of facilities in teaching special diets in the various schools of nursing. Conferences were held at hospitals in San Francisco, San Jose, Alameda County and Stockton.

10. SANITARY ENGINEERING

The principal items of work of the engineers of the bureau, now numbering three, were a compilation of the utilization of sewage sludge; further work in a fluorin survey of wells in the Twenty-Nine Palms area; and one member of the staff has spent most of the month in attendance at a school in occupational hygiene in anticipation that such work may be undertaken in California.

The first item was a compilation of the utilization of sewage sludge in the two hundred or more sewage treatment plants in the State which produce sludge. The information is part of a nationwide canvass by an important committee of the American Public Health Association. The findings for California revealed that practically every city makes fertilizer use of its sludge, though only a comparatively small number carry on the use of the sludge on a business-like or profit-making basis, and none used sludge on vegetables.

Further work was done in a fluorin survey of wells in the Twenty-Nine Palms area, the result of which was the finding that the wells above a certain underground dike were the lowest in fluorin and the water could be used with comparative safety. Below this dike the wells take on a gradually increasing amount of fluorin and all the wells below the dike were seriously high in fluorin content. The subject is to be followed up further with a view to investigating possibilities of removing the fluorin by household devices.

A detailed report is as follows:

Sewage Disposal

New Projects

Orange County, which many years ago abandoned local disposal for a unified outfall to the ocean, driven to the scheme by nuisance from local sewer farms, is torn by debate over return to local disposal. There are eight large communities involved. It is a momentous decision. The bureau has been consulted in passing on the site proposed for local treatment at two of the places—Orange and Fullerton.

Placerville is about to vote on a bond issue for a long delayed cleanup of Hangtown Creek, which passes through the city and into which myriads of sewers have been emptying for generations. Healdsburg has voted bonds for a fairly comprehensive project which will abate a long standing case of stream pollution. It is understood that Napa is also looking into the possibility of such a project. The community of Newhall is also investigating a possible sewer system and sewage disposal and the bureau has been consulting with their local engineer in evolving the project.

Covina is reviving an effort to obtain a sewer system and sewage disposal and at the moment is considering building an elaborate sewage treatment plant underground in the city park and disposing of the highly clarified effluent through filter tiles laid deep in the natural soil. The bureau also conferred with the engineer at Murrietta Hot Springs and blocked out a scheme of sewage treatment for this resort. Advice was given the East Bay Recreational Department in a sewage treatment plant for its Wild Cat Canyon Camp. A scheme of improvements to sewage disposal was also discussed with the consulting engineer of the City of Needles. The bureau also advised the local citizens in the scheme of sewage disposal for an unincorporated area outside of Oroville and gave advice on procedure to organize a district. Big Bear Lake was investigated from the standpoint of the effect of high lake level on the scheme of sewage treatment should this area go ahead with a sewer system. Advice was given on a scheme of sewage disposal for a large subdivision in the vicinity of Lafayette. Conferences were held with the county health officer over a unified sewer system for Crockett. A site for disposal of wastes from a reduction plant was investigated at Brawley. Attended a conference with the City Council of Imperial over the elements of a sewage treatment plant which might avoid necessity of a long sewer to New River. Basis of design for sewage trickling filter for Stockton State Farm was discussed with the State architect.

Advice was given the State Park Commission in the matter of temporary improvements to sewage disposal at Big Basin which would fit into a permanent construction which it is expected may be undertaken within the next year. Advice was also given in sewage disposal of a large roadside place at Grapevine on the Ridge Route. Application for permit has been received from Orange for the construction of an activated sludge plant on San Gabriel River; also from the City of Hemet to dispose of sewage for irrigation in the vicinity of the sewer farm.

Plans were reviewed for a sewer outfall for a new trickling filter plant at Modesto and at Imhoff tank with various types of disposal for resettlement camps at Winters, Marysville, Shafter, Coachella, and Arvin. New sewage treatment plant recently completed at Stockton was inspected.

Complaints

Complaints were received against overflowing cesspools at Hemet and request for help in improving sanitation in San Lorenzo River. A complaint was received also from the water company at Coronado against the location of the proposed sewer from Tiajuana which would pass somewhere near the wells.

It is understood that on account of the introduction of a new cracking plant for gasoline in the Santa Fe oil fields, there has been an extensive odor nuisance along the drain line from this oil field to the ocean. However, complaints have not reached this department.

Special Mention

The beach at Monterey was inspected from the standpoint of noting the cleanup accomplished by the removal of the city sewer from its old location to another one nearly a mile away. It was observed that there is still faeces on the beach though not to the extent as formerly, probably due to toilets on the small boats in the harbor or possibly to toilets on the wharves, and the beach was badly littered with garbage-like refuse, broken glass and flotsam brought in by the tides. The beach at Carmel was also inspected. Here the sewage, once retained in tanks and discharged periodically, is allowed to spew onto the beach continuously. This particular beach is not used to great extent but on the date of inspection, several parties were picnicking there.

These are the first of numerous inspections the bureau expects to undertake in the next year or so in order to comply with a request from the State Assembly for a report on instances of beach and stream pollution up and down the State.

An interesting meeting was attended in which the subject of mountain sanitation in Los Angeles County was discussed by the county health department. Hundreds of analyses of water were made on the streams and it is encouraging to note that in spite of the tremendous increase in the crowds flocking to the mountains, the analytical evidence is that pollution is held down so that there is little difference between streams above the recreational area and points on the stream below. The accomplishment is clearly the work of endless preaching and education of recreationists in behalf of conserving the streams against pollution.

Water

New Projects

Antioch is about to add some additional filters and has discussed with the bureau the elimination of cross-connections which would admit raw water into the filtered water system. Various conferences have been held with the State engineer's office over new water supply for Napa State Hospital and Veterans Home; also with the Highway Department over improvements to their well supply at Marysville headquarters. An inquiry was received from Beverly Hills over approving certain reservoir improvements in accordance with the requirement of the Public Works Administration.

Complaints

Considerable time was spent in an effort to adjust complaints by the City Health Department of Los Angeles against the city water supply. A case of resort pollution of White Water River at the headworks of the Palm Springs irrigation system was investigated with the county health officer and various procedures blocked out, one

depending on an attempt to clean up the sanitation at the resort and the other utilizing the river sands for artificial improvement of the water.

Certain wells in Eldorado County were investigated in connection with the occurrence of jaundice epidemic in a school, and conclusion pretty well reached that the trouble was due to mice and rats which fell into the water.

Special Mention

A problem over water supply for the Resettlement Camp at Brawley has been solved by an agreement to compensate the city in an amount which will build an additional filter at the city waterworks and supply filtered water instead of simply settled water to this camp. The water supply in Palm Springs was investigated in connection with the complaint against conditions on White Water River. A perplexing problem has been raised by the San Francisco Water Department over the matter of various cross-connections within hotels and office buildings. The situation became noticeable in connection with the recent hotel employees strike in which new workmen came on, not familiar with the hotel piping, and, of course, wrong manipulation of the valves was a serious threat to the purity of the drinking water.

Conference was held with the engineers for the San Francisco Exposition over the avoidance of proposed cross-connection with bay waters for fire fighting purposes. The investigation into fluorids in the Twenty-Nine Palms area has already been referred to. The water supply at Oasis was resampled and inspected in connection with certification as analyses indicate that pollution is going on somewhere.

Mosquitoes

A visit was made to San Mateo County and South San Francisco in connection with mosquito abatement.

Shellfish

Oyster beds in Tomales Bay were investigated in connection with a recent quarantine, by the San Francisco Health Department, of oysters from several miles of bay shore, seemingly of virgin purity. The findings were confirmed that in certain parts of the bed the oysters are pretty badly affected with *Staphylococcus aureus* and the oysters, though not spoiled, are decidedly unfit for food. Other oyster beds in which the taking of oysters was stopped last winter, were reinspected and resampled with a view to lifting the restriction. The watershed of Drakes Bay was also gone over thoroughly, seeking out pollution that might affect extensive layings in Drakes Bay. The City Health Department of San Francisco has also quarantined clams from an area in Sobra. Investigations were started to try to clear up this situation.

Swimming Pools

Numerous inquiries continue to be received almost every day for information and literature on swimming pools. A conference was held over trying to raise the standards of swimming places in Contra Costa County. Help was also given the Berkeley Women's City Club on account of excess chlorin.

Laboratory

On routine samples run in the laboratory, opinions were rendered on thirty-eight samples analyzed for bacteria and thirty-four samples for chemical tests involving 271 determinations, and ten samples of oysters involving forty determinations.

11. VITAL STATISTICS

Marriage Increase

The first three months of 1937 show increased numbers of marriages over a corresponding period of last year. Following is the statistical detail:

	1936	1937
Total—first three months.....	12,218	12,836
January	4,201	4,409
February	4,058	4,000
March	3,959	4,427

Births

There were 633 more births registered in the State during January of 1937 than in January of 1936. In the first month of the present year, there were 7,212 births recorded while during the corresponding month of last year, there were 6,579 such events registered.

CAN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES DISCIPLINE MEMBERS?

A decision recently handed down by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington has been much discussed and is given below for readers who are interested in the principles involved:

Porter et al., vs. King County Medical Society et al.

No. 25862

SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

[1] Trade-marks and trade-names and unfair competition.—Employee has no right of action against employer's competitor engaging in same business by using same means as employer.

[2] Master and servant.—Business manager employed by physicians operating clinic *held* to have no cause of action against medical society or competing clinic organized by such society because defendants employed former clinic's best solicitor; solicitor having been employed under terminable contract.

[3] Physicians and surgeons.—Incorporated medical society's constitution, charter, and by-laws *held* to constitute contract between members enforceable by courts unless immoral or contrary to law or public policy; selfishness of society's objects being immaterial if legitimate.

[4] Physicians and surgeons.—Medical society *held* entitled to adopt by-law warranting expulsion of members unauthorizedly operating clinics or engaging in group contract practice; whether by-law was just, reasonable, or wise being question of policy concerning only society and its members.

[5] Physicians and surgeons.—Medical society in enforcing by-laws for direct purpose of benefit to itself and members *held* not answerable for damage incidentally resulting to third person.

[6] Physicians and surgeons.—Members of medical society *held* bound to obey its laws, rules, and regulations or be fined, suspended, or expelled.

[7] Master and servant.—Business manager of clinic employed for unlimited term by physicians who, to avoid expulsion from medical society pursuant to by-law, were compelled to abandon their clinical and group contract practice *held* to have no cause of action for damages against society or its competing clinic.

Department Two.

Appeal from Superior Court, King County; J. T. Ronald, Judge.

Action by Frank G. Porter and others against the King County Medical Society, a corporation, and others. From a judgment of dismissal, plaintiffs appeal.

Affirmed.

Charles H. Graves, of Seattle, for appellants.

Charles F. Riddell, of Seattle, for respondents.

MILLARD, Chief Justice.

This action was instituted against the King County Medical Society, a corporation, the King County Medical Service Corporation, and certain officers, trustees, and members of the two corporations to recover damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiffs by reason of defendants having induced Doctors Ralph L. Sweet and Goff MacKinnon, members of the King County Medical Society, copartners, who were doing business as the Associated Physicians Clinic, to breach a contract existing between the plaintiffs and the copartnership.

The appeal is from the judgment of dismissal rendered upon the plaintiffs' refusal to plead further after a demurrer had been sustained to the complaint, upon the ground that the same failed to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action.

The allegations of the complaint are summarized as follows:

The King County Medical Society, a domestic corporation, is one of the constituent societies of the Washington State Medical Association, which in turn is one of the constituent societies of the American Medical Association. The King County Medical Service Corporation is a subsidiary of the King County Medical Society. The individual respondents, physicians and surgeons of Seattle, are officers, trustees, and members of either one or both the King County Medical Society and the King County Medical Service Corporation. The major portion of the practicing physicians and surgeons of King County are members of the King County Medical Society. That society, through its affiliation with the various county associations and State associations, virtually dictates and controls the policies of the medical profession and its functions and practices in